

"Many people now feel like second-class citizens when they enter the doctor's office. That's because everyone in the office knows that the patient isn't really the payer—the patient doesn't hold the purse strings.

"The greater the percentage of medical costs that patients pay to their insurance company in premiums, the more insurers are in charge.

"The greater the percentage that patients instead pay directly to their doctor out-of-pocket, the patients are in charge.

"Whether it's television, computers or Lasik eye surgery, when consumers are in charge, prices stay in check. In 1970, consumers paid for 62% for all privately purchased healthcare out-of-pocket. Today, that percentage is just 26%.

"Consumers are paying less directly to doctors, but they're paying four times as much overall—to insurers or the IRS.

"Only two basic ways exist to cut costs: putting consumers in charge and letting them pursue value; putting the government in charge and letting it ration care.

"So, how do we put consumers back in charge? First, we need to reject the current bills in Congress, which would restrict consumer choice substantially. Then we need to empower consumers in three key ways:

1. End the unfair tax on the uninsured. We should give tax credits to individuals and families that are uninsured or self-insured, thereby putting them on the same ground as those with employer-sponsored insurance.

2. Make it easier for consumers to see prices.

3. Encourage consumer-driven insurance models to give consumers skin in the game.

Intel offers a plan in which it pays all insurance premiums, while its employees pay all health costs up to an annual deductible of about \$2,500 for families—with certain preventive care provided for free.

"Intel employees deposit part of their income into a health savings account tax-free, just like any income that's used to pay for insurance premiums is tax-free.

"These consumers have a stronger incentive to shop for value—as everything they spend up to \$2,500 comes from their own pockets, and everything they save is theirs to keep. Whole Foods offers a comparable plan.

"Across nearly 40 years, the costs of government-run medical care have risen far more, per patient, than the costs of privately purchased care. As consumers' opportunities and incentives to pursue value have diminished, costs have skyrocketed."

Source: Tevi Troy (2007-09 Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services and now a Fellow at Hudson Institute) and Jeffrey Anderson (Senior Fellow in healthcare studies at Pacific Research Institute), Investor's Business Daily.

GOVERNMENT IS THE CAUSE OF HEALTHCARE PROBLEMS—NOT THE SOLUTION

"I would submit that we do not have a healthcare problem in this country, but we do most definitely have a government problem in this country."

"Our healthcare system is a mess, but few understand why, and most tacitly accept the notion that government can or must provide the solutions. But it needs to be recognized that government encroachment into healthcare over the decades was the key ingredient in creating the bureaucratic, inefficient morass that is our current system.

"The logical answer, once this is appreciated, is not to allow the government to fix what it broke in the first place! The answer is to strive to do everything possible toward the goal of getting government out of healthcare completely. This means less regulation, not more. This means less govern-

ment/corporate cooperation (collusion), not more. Lobbying for regulations favorable to one group over another is a toxic concept, based on the immorality of the method itself. Yes, I know that this is the 'way government works' nowadays, and I hear the arguments that we need to have a 'seat at the table,' but that doesn't make it any less wrong."

"HEALTHCARE IS NOT A RIGHT"

"We have gotten to the point where we are ready to hand over the last bit of control of our healthcare system to government bureaucrats. . . . Is it really so shocking to ask the question: 'Why is the government involved in my healthcare at all?' Maybe it's shocking to some state 'Healthcare is not a right.' But it's only shocking to someone with no understanding of natural law, rights versus privileges, or why a socialistic system, healthcare or otherwise, is profoundly immoral. The wealthy will always find a way to skirt such a system while the shrinking middle class pays for it, and the poor, the ones the system claims to benefit, suffer the most. . . .

ADVICE TO ORGANIZED DOCTORS

Recommend to your members that if they are one of the 17% of American physicians that remain members of the AMA, get out. Let's make it even clearer that the AMA doesn't represent American physicians and exists solely to feed off its lucrative CPT franchise (merely one example of corporate/government collusion which poisons the system and raises costs).

Learn what's really going on with healthcare in America. A good place to start is the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons and its special project website, www.takebackmedicine.com.

Opt out of Medicare immediately. Continue to care for seniors, as most physician who have opted out do, through private contracts with reasonable fees. Refuse to be part of a corrupt and inefficient bureaucracy that threatens its physicians with draconian punishments and fines while paying them a pittance for the privilege. Imagine the signal that would send if a large organization of physicians like yours had the backbone to recommend this. It would force Reid and Pelosi to tender the idea of forced physician labor. That would likely wake up physicians, indeed the whole of the American people, to just how much power the government craves.

It is only a true free market in healthcare which will lower costs for all patients, increase availability of care, and spur innovation. Most, unfortunately, have no idea what a true free market looks like. It's not what we have now, and certainly not what is on the horizon.

Sincerely,
DOUGLAS J. MACKENZIE, M.D., F.A.C.S.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1008 to honor the contributions of Catholic schools.

The tradition of Catholic schools in America dates back to settlement of the new world, and through the centuries, Catholic institutions have been incredibly effective at educating

young people in the United States. Today, enrollment in Catholic institutions numbers at above 2 million students across the country with a student to teacher ratio of approximately 14 to 1. Additionally, Catholic schools graduate roughly 99 percent of their students with 97 percent of those graduates pursuing degrees at institutions of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, as we become a more interconnected and global society, the education of our young people will become increasingly important. Catholic institutions help to ensure that those same young people receive quality educations, and I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in supporting H. Res. 1008 to honor the contributions of Catholic schools.

HONORING THE MARTIN LUTHER KING OBSERVANCE COMMITTEE OF MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Martin Luther King Observance Committee of Morristown, New Jersey in my congressional district, which this year is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Since 1970, the Committee, has been dedicated to promoting the rich legacy of the life and works of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the involvement of the Morris County community in its annual commemorative services.

The observance for 2010 marks the 25th year that Dr. King's birthday will be commemorated as a national holiday. As an expression of local unity and in recognition of this important event, the Martin Luther King Observance Committee is inviting the Morris Clergy Council to join with the committee in sponsoring services on Monday, January 18, 2010.

This year's theme "King's Dream: America, Fight Hate with Love," is the true embodiment of Dr. King's philosophy and teachings. From those individuals who spearheaded the initial celebration, the late Rachel Viola Jones and Dr. Felicia B. Jamison, the planning efforts have broadened to include members of the Morris Area Clergy Council, with representatives from all major faiths. In addition to the two founders, other volunteers who assisted in the early years included Emma L. Martin, George Dorsey, William "Jack" Harris, Reginald and Emanuella Smith, Flora Webb, Norman Jean Matthews, Woody Huff, Elizabeth Lubar, Cecelia Dowdy, Rabbi Z. David Levy, and the Rev. Charles Marks.

The core planning committee is continuing to carry on the tradition of excellence for this great program and has grown to include many dedicated volunteers. Some of those individuals include Nadine Alston, Dr. Judy L. Banks, Pastor Alfonso Sherald, Reverend Leon Sims, Minister Dr. David Hollowell, Reverend Robert C. Rogers, Deacon Henry Lee, George Loveless, Leonard Posey, James Mack, Janet Bonar, Patricia Johnson, Esq., Mae Williams, Elie Sims, Rabbi Donald Rossoff, James Vance, Minister Marian Sykes Johnson, and the Reverend Dr. Jerry M. Carter, Jr.

Madam Speaker, I am quite certain that the Martin Luther King Observance Committee will

continue in the years ahead to promote the cause of equality and opportunities for our young people to pursue productive, fulfilling lives. I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Martin Luther King Observance Committee of Morristown, especially the chairwoman, Dr. Felicia Jamison, as they celebrate 40 dedicated years of serving our community.

ESPIONAGE TRIAL AGAINST
SEVEN LEADERS OF THE IRA-
NIAN BAHAI COMMUNITY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, Monday's Washington Post featured a story about seven leaders of the Baha'i community who are facing "trial behind closed doors in Tehran."

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom rightly called the trial a "sham." The U.S. State Department issued a statement strongly condemning the Iranian government's decision to commence the espionage trial against seven leaders of the Iranian Baha'i community: Mrs. Fariba Kamalabadi, Mr. Jamaloddin Khanjani, Mr. Afif Naeimi, Mr. Saeid Rezaie, Mr. Behrouz Tavakkoli, Mr. Vahid Tizfahm and Mrs. Mahvash Sabet.

After 20 months in prison these individuals finally had their first court appearance on January 12. According to the Baha'i International Community Iranian authorities have notified the lawyers of seven imprisoned Baha'i leaders that the next session of their trial will be held on February 7.

They spent their first year in prison without formal charges or access to lawyers, in violation of Iranian law. And now, the stakes are getting even higher for members of this minority faith.

A recent state-sponsored media campaign levied false accusations against the Baha'is claiming this religious group incited the latest protests in the Iran. This is a regime that is scared of its own people and desperately looking to redirect public discontent.

Sadly, we should not be surprised by these actions. The government of Iran's gross violations of religious freedom are well-documented and long-standing including the execution of over 200 Baha'i leaders since 1979, the desecration of Baha'i cemeteries and places of worship and the violent arrest and harassment of members of the Baha'i faith.

The U.S. must continue to work with our partners to speak with one voice about inexcusable human rights violations that are occurring in Iran. We must continue to speak out for due process and a fair trial for these seven Baha'i leaders.

The world cannot turn a blind eye to this regime's persecution of its own people.

CELEBRATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF SONG TRIBUTE TO DR. MAR-
TIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1010, Celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 30th anniversary of the Stevie Wonder song tribute to Dr. King, "Happy Birthday," introduced by my distinguished colleague from Michigan, Representative CONYERS. The first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal holiday was officially observed on January 20, 1986, and was celebrated with a concert headlined by Stevie Wonder, who has, in the years since, continued his commitment to promoting peace and equality, for which he has been recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.

Stevie Wonder encouraged the establishment of a Federal holiday in recognition of Dr. King on his album sleeve for "Hotter Than July" by expressing that, "I and a growing number of people believe that it is time for our country to adopt legislation that will make January 15, Martin Luther King's birthday, a national holiday, both in recognition of what he achieved and as a reminder of the distance which still has to be traveled." The tribute song "Happy Birthday," became a rallying cry that led to 6,000,000 signatures supporting a Federal holiday in honor of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legislation designating the third Monday of January as a Federal holiday in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. occurred on November 3, 1983, was signed into law. This campaign secured a Federal holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. lasted for fifteen years with the 1980 Stevie Wonder song solidified the campaign's success.

The life and work of Dr. King, to advance justice, equality, and peace for an entire human race ended prematurely when he was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, while he was challenging the wages and treatment of Memphis sanitation workers. Four days after the assassination of Dr. King, on April 8, 1968, Representative JOHN CONYERS, JR. introduced legislation to recognize civil rights leader Dr. King with a Federal holiday coinciding with his birthday on January 15, 1929.

Stevie Wonder dedicated his album sleeve for "Hotter Than July," an album released on September 29, 1980, and upon which "Happy Birthday" is recorded, to Dr. King, with an inscription that read, "Martin Luther King, Jr. showed us, non-violently, a better way of life, a way of mutual respect, helping us to avoid much bitter confrontation and inevitable bloodshed." On January 17, 2000, for the first time, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was officially observed in all fifty states.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a dreamer. His dreams were a tool through which he was able to lift his mind beyond the reality of his segregated society, and into a realm where it was possible that white and black, red and brown, and all others live and work alongside each other and prosper.

But Martin Luther King, Jr. was not just an idle daydreamer. He shared his visions through speeches that motivated others to join in his nonviolent effort to lift themselves from poverty and isolation by creating a new America where equal justice and institutions were facts of life.

It appears that too many of our nation's young people have forgotten how to dream. They have forgotten what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us, when he started his journey towards equality—with peace in his heart and the dream of equality in his eyes.

Today, children and young people often ask: "What is a dream?" or "How can it change my life?" We must once again introduce our young people to the life of Dr. King and his enduring dream. His vision is still so pertinent today, our lives continue to be shaped by his efforts.

A young Martin managed to find a dream, one that he pieced together from his readings—in the Bible, and literature, and just about any other book he could get his hands on. And not only did those books help him educate himself, but they also allowed him to work through the destructive and traumatic experiences of blatant discrimination, and the discriminatory abuse inflicted on himself, his family, and his people.

The life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was properly captured in Dr. King's most famed speech, "I Have A Dream," on August 28, 1963, when he said, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" The legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is continued today, as evidenced by the work of organizations like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which is currently led by Dr. King's daughter, Bernice King, and was at one time led by Dr. King's son, Martin Luther King, III. In addition to organizations, the legacy of Dr. King continues on today with people in the United States and throughout the world, with individual acts of compassion, courage, and peace.

This legislation will benefit the well-being of the public as it celebrates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the 30th anniversary of the Stevie Wonder tribute song to Dr. King. It recognizes the legacy left by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with commitments to freedom, equality, and justice, as exhibited by Stevie Wonder and so many others; and finally, encourages the people of the United States to commemorate the legacy of Dr. King by renewing pledges to advance those principles and actions that are consistent with Dr. King's belief that "all men are created equal." As such, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to join me and do the same.

INAUGURAL SPEECH OF GOV-
ERNOR ROBERT F. McDONNELL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with our colleagues the speech new Virginia Governor Robert F. McDonnell gave at